

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NEA-06 OMB-01 EB-03 IO-03 NSC-10

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 H-01 GSA-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: RELEASES OF OPIUM FROM STOCKPILE FOR MEDICAL
REQUIREMENTS

REF: A) STATE 70359; B) STATE 70364; C) STATE 70360;
D) STATE 70367

1. ON APRIL 16 THE PRESIDENT SENT TO THE CONGRESS
PROPOSED STOCKPILE DISPOSAL LEGISLATION IN THE FORM OF AN
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OMNIBUS BILL WHICH HAS THE OBJECTIVE OF OBTAINING

CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SALE OF COMMODITIES NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR NATIONAL SECURITY (REFS A AND B). OPIUM IS ONE OF THE 91 ITEMS LISTED IN THE STOCKPILE INVENTORY PRESENTED WITH THE BILL AND INCLUDED IN THE FACT SHEET RELEASED BY THE WHITE HOUSE ON APRIL 16 (REFS C AND D). THE STOCKPILE INCLUDED 141,600 POUNDS EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF ANHYDROUS MORPHINE CONTENT EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 634 TONS IN TERMS OF OPIUM OR OPIUM EQUIVALENT-

2. IT IS BELIEVED THERE IS LITTLE PROBABILITY OF PASSAGE THIS CALENDAR YEAR OF THE OMNIBUS STOCKPILE RELEASE BILL. CONSEQUENTLY, OMB (DIVISION OF FEDERAL

DRUG MANAGEMENT) AND GSA MET ON JULY 2 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE US MANUFACTURERS WHO ARE AUTHORIZED IMPORTERS OF OPIUM TO DISCUSS WORKING WITH THEM TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION FOR RELEASE OF OPIUM FROM THE STOCKPILE SEPARATELY FROM THE OMNIBUS BILL.

3. THE ADMINISTRATION DESIRES TO ASSURE THAT THE SEPARATE BILL WILL BE FULLY IN ACCORD WITH ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, AN IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT IS THAT THE BILL BE PERMISSIVE AND NOT OBLIGATORY IN TERMS OF ANY RELEASES. THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION POSITION IS THAT WE WOULD USE THE STOCKPILE TO PROVIDE A SIX MONTHS' INVENTORY FOR THE THREE MANUFACTURERS CONSIDERED TOGETHER. THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO HAVE THE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY TO ASSURE THAT THE USE OF THE STOCKPILE TO SUPPLEMENT SHORTFALLS IN IMPORTS FOR MEETING US MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS IS FULLY IN ACCORD WITH OUR OPIUM CONTROL OBJECTIVES IN BOTH THE SHORT AND LONGER TERM.

4. WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE US COMPANIES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON A SEPARATE OPIUM RELEASE BILL, WE SHALL BE ENTERING INTO CONSULTATION WITH INDIA ON THE DISPOSAL PROGRAM. THE OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO OBTAIN NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONLY INDIAN CONCURRENCE TO THE PROGRAM, BUT ALSO AN INDIAN COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE US IMPORTERS WITH ALLOCATIONS FROM INDIAN PRODUCTION BASED ON THE PROPORTION OF US REQUIREMENTS TO TOTAL WORLD REQUIREMENTS. WE WOULD ASSURE THE INDIANS THAT RELEASES FROM THE STOCKPILE WOULD BE LIMITED TO MEETING THE GAP BETWEEN CURRENT IMPORT SUPPLIES AND US REQUIREMENTS AND WE WOULD SEEK RECIPROCAL ASSURANCES FROM INDIA THAT IT WOULD NOT

REDUCE US ALLOCATIONS BECAUSE OF THE RELEASES FROM THE STOCKPILE. AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME WE WOULD ALSO GIVE ADVANCE INFORMATION TO THE INCB OF STOCKPILE RELEASES AND THE DISPOSAL PROGRAM.

5. THIS MESSAGE IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND YOU ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE NO ACTION. YOU WILL BE INFORMED WHEN THE SEPARATE BILL AND DISPOSAL PROGRAM HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON AND CONSULTATION HAS BEGUN WITH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT. IN CASE PUBLICITY ABOUT THE OPIUM RELEASE BILL SHOULD STIMULATE OFFICIAL OR OTHER INQUIRIES, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DRAW UPON THE FOREGOING IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS. ROGERS

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